Findings for the Alaska Board of Game 2012-196-BOG Unit 19A Intensive Management Supplemental Findings March 9, 2012

The Board of Game finds as follows, based on information provided by Department staff and residents and users of moose in Unit 19A. These findings are supplemental to the findings set forth in 5AAC 92.108, in the Unit 19A predation control implementation plan in 5 AAC 92.125, and in Board of Game supplemental Findings 2009-180-BOG.

- 1. The moose population size, currently estimated to be 2,791-5,782 moose, is less than the population objective of 7,600-9,300 moose (derived from the combined Units 19A and 19B objective based on proportionate area). The population objective has not been achieved for at least the last 8 years.
- 2. The Unit 19A moose harvestable surplus, as described in 5 AAC 92.106(3)(A), in eastern Unit 19A (upstream from and excluding the George River drainage), excluding the Lime Village Management Area is nonexistent. In western Unit 19A (downstream from and including the George River drainage), the harvestable surplus is 60 bulls. This is less than the harvest objective of 400-550 moose (also based on proportionate area). The harvest objective has not been achieved for at least the last 8 years.
- 3. The Unit 19A moose population is depleted and reduced in productivity resulting in a significant reduction in the allowable human harvest of the population.
- 4. Enhancement of abundance or productivity is feasibly achievable utilizing the recognized and prudent active management technique of predator control.
- 5. The Board has repeatedly, since 2002, been required to significantly reduce the taking of moose in Unit 19A by restricting harvest, seasons and bag limits as compared to the level and timing of hunting opportunity that was allowed when the population was not depleted and reduced in productivity.
- 6. The population and harvest objectives have not been achieved, at least in part, because wolf, black bear, and brown bear predation has been an important cause of mortality in the population, to the extent that the population is unlikely to recover, and objectives are unlikely to be achieved, in the foreseeable future unless predator control is conducted.
- 7. The Department may reduce the black bear and brown bear populations using department employees to conduct aerial, land and shoot, and/or ground based lethal black bear and brown bear removal of any sex and age of black bear and brown bear using state owned, privately owned, or chartered equipment, including helicopters under AS16.05.783
- 8. Reducing predation can reasonably be expected to aid in achievement of the population and harvest objectives.

Vote: 7-0 March 9, 2012 Fairbanks, Alaska

Cliff Jadkins, Chairman Alaska Board of Game